



**Jay County  
REMC**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

484 S 200 W  
P.O. Box 904, Portland, IN 47371

### PHONE NUMBERS & HOURS

Local ..... (260) 726-7121  
Toll Free ..... (800) 835-7362  
Fax ..... (260) 726-6240  
E-mail ..... remc@JayREMC.com  
Web Site ..... [www.JayREMC.com](http://www.JayREMC.com)

#### To report an outage or emergency

Call (260) 726-7121 or  
(800) TEL-REMC (835-7362)

**24 hours a day, 7 days a week**

Be ready to provide the following information:

1. Name under which the electric service is listed.
2. Map location number.
3. Your phone number in case we need to call you back.
4. The type of problem you are experiencing, e.g., flickering lights, complete power outage, etc.
5. Hang up when all information has been recorded — other members may be trying to contact the REMC, too.

**Office hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Monday-Friday**

### CO-OP NOTES

#### \$50 cash drawing winners

The \$50 drawing winners for the month of August was Kent Eichhorn of Decatur. Read **Electric Consumer** for your chance to win \$50.

**Have a safe  
and happy  
Halloween!**



## co-opNews

### Celebrate Co-op Month by sealing leaks

Did you know that one of the reasons cooperatives exist is to save their members money? October is National Cooperative Month, and co-ops everywhere – including electric power cooperatives like ours – are taking the time to remind Americans that being a co-op member can help your dollars go farther. That's because our focus is on serving your needs rather than increasing profits for investors.

Want proof of that? Consider the steps we take to help you make your home more energy efficient. That means you'll use less of the electricity we'll deliver. But conservation is not only good for your pocketbook, it's good for our nation as a whole.

This time of year, a great way to reduce your energy costs is to become more aware of the ways air leaks into and out of your home. Small gaps in your home's construction can add up to bigger energy bills. How big? As much as 30 percent of your heating and cooling dollars may actually be caused by leaks in your home.

Those leaks can also make your heating and cooling system work harder than it needs to, reducing its useful life and increasing the likely cost of repairs. In addition, a well-sealed home reduces indoor pollutants, creating a healthier indoor environment.

The biggest sources of leaks – what's known as air infiltration – are in places that are hidden from view, particularly places where the house connects to the attic, crawlspace, or basement. Dropped ceilings, ductwork, attic accesses and recessed light fixtures are all sources of significant air infiltration, as are tub drains and other places where plumbing, electrical, or heating



and cooling equipment penetrates through the walls or floor.

By sealing locations where air is leaking, you can lower your energy costs and improve the comfort of your home, because there will be fewer drafts. Using caulk or foam is a great way to seal everything from electrical switches and outlets to whole-house fans. In addition, if you have an attic hatch or a kneewall access door, consider switching to a tighter latch and adding weatherstripping.

Members can also benefit from a free energy audit. A trained professional from Jay County REMC will visit your home or business to evaluate your energy use, examine common sources of leakage, and suggest common-sense ways to eliminate the leaks. It's just one more way that we provide free advice when you want it and help when you need it. For more information, visit [www.energyadvisor.coop](http://www.energyadvisor.coop).

### A small investment with a big return.



#### Preventing air leaks in your home can save you money.

Did you know that air infiltration can account for 30% of your home's heating and cooling costs? Sealing your home against air leaks can keep your heating and cooling systems from working overtime, saving you energy and money all year round. It also reduces indoor air pollutants, creating a healthier environment and keeping your family more comfortable.

For more information on home air sealing, call your local REMC or go to [www.energyadvisor.coop](http://www.energyadvisor.coop).

 **Jay County REMC**  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
(260) 726-7121 • [www.jayremc.com](http://www.jayremc.com)

**Advice when you want it. Help when you need it.**

## SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS

# PCS-WIN: Computers and service combo

by Cindy Denney

If you remember when computer towers were the size of a refrigerator, raise your hand.

If you remember when a computer cost more than a car, raise your hand.

If you remember when computers could only be operated by people with doctoral degrees, raise your hand.

I do, I do, I do. Walking into the computer lab at Indiana State University, my eyes glazed over, my mouth dropped and my throat went dry when I gazed upon the dragon like creation. According to my professor, taming this monster would be 75 percent of my grade. Luckily, computer geeks (or as I referred to them: knights in shining pocket protectors) were readily available to help a damsel in distress. Early computers were large, to say the least, and extremely expensive. Typically, only universities and large corporations could afford this new electronic equipment.

Today computers are compact, affordable and can be operated by any kindergartener. Plus they are available from Jay County REMC member Steve Barnes of PCS-WIN. Steve, a rural Randolph County resident, has been in the computer business for over 20 years. He began his career in electronics in the '80s. He claims it was a natural progression from electronics to computers. Following graduation from DeVry Institute of Technology, Barnes traveled the country troubleshooting for companies such as General Motors.

Although he does not consider himself a computer geek, working on computers comes



PCS-WIN: Computer store extraordinaire.

backs. Speaking for all the computer illiterate people in this world, I am truly in awe of the computer geniuses.

Computers can be purchased from almost any store with an electronics department. But unlike the discount stores, Barnes offers SERVICE. The computer purchased at the brand X computer store will not offer repair service. If the computer has a problem, the computer will have to be sent to Mozambique in the original box, with the original receipt, and may take weeks, sometimes months, for the repairs to be completed.

The employees at PCS-WIN take pride in the knowledge that they not only custom build computers, but they can also repair them. "We work on all brands of computers from Apple to Xerox," said Barnes. Pointing to the shelves of computers that were waiting to be picked up from people whose computers crashed, Barnes commented not one of the computers had been purchased from PCS-WIN. "If someone buys a computer from me, it is my hope not to hear from them because my computers do what they are suppose to do, work," he stated.

Secrets from Barnes on keeping your computer healthy include:

- Practice safe computing; don't let Cousin

Connie install anything on your computer.

- Don't download everything off the Internet. Downloads can have spy ware and viruses. Free downloads can cost you a lot of money later.
- Computers need to be cleaned. Dust and dirt block airflow which cause heat – heat is the worst thing for your computer. It is recommended to have your computer cleaned annually.

The capabilities of the modern computer to the computers of my college days are mind-boggling. Connectivity is world wide with the advances in technology. The Internet has given us access to global information. To achieve connectivity, PSC-WIN is now offering wireless Internet to Randolph County residents through Randolph County Wireless Internet (RCWiFi).

Wireless Internet service is primarily for Internet users who are tired of busy phone lines and want a high speed Internet service in rural, non-covered areas. When it takes longer for you to get connected and download your e-mail than it would to write the letter by hand and drive it there, you need RCViFi. "Our wireless Internet service is in direct competition with REMC Internet powered by Omnicity. It is good to have choices," said Barnes.

And choices are what you will get at PCS-WIN: Lenovo laptop, custom built computers, printers, scanners, and more. Office hours for PCS-WIN are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. There are many ways to get in contact with Steve Barnes: (765) 584-2288 or (888) 584-2288, [www.pcswin.com](http://www.pcswin.com), or e-mail: [steve@pcswin.com](mailto:steve@pcswin.com). He will set you up.

Cindy Denney is director of marketing and customer service at Jay County REMC.



Steve Barnes, computer specialist, of PCS-WIN.

## CO-OP MONTH SPECIAL



As a valued member of Jay County REMC, PCS-WIN is offering a special Jay County REMC discount. Take this coupon to PCS-WIN on or before Oct. 31. Get your computer cleaned for \$50. Regular price is \$65.

## REMC hosts FREE energy seminar

Does the heating season frighten you? Does the cooling season bring chills? No need to be scared; the REMC is here to take the worry away. Attend the Home Energy Seminar on Oct. 19 at Jay County REMC to find how can you make your home more comfortable during the heating and cooling seasons? At the Home Energy Seminar, you will learn about insulation, Marathon water heaters and energy efficient heat pumps.

Today we have the ability to go to our thermostat, set a temperature, and enjoy quiet, energy efficient comfort throughout our entire home. But has it always been this easy? How has home comfort evolved to what it is, or can be, today? What makes the difference between a noisy system that just blows hot or cold air and a system that makes your home comfortable? Have you ever wondered why two similar homes can have drastically dissimilar comfort levels and energy costs?

The type of system, and how it is installed, has a huge impact on your comfort. Even with rising energy costs, today's dependable technology can allow you to enjoy affordable and healthy comfort in your home. Join us for a presentation on heat pumps and more. Registration and a

light meal begins at 5:30 p.m. and the program begins at 6 p.m.

Mike Pursifull and David Kaiser, sales representative with Superior Distribution, will be presenting information on Rudd heat pumps. Rudd is manufactured in Fort Smith, Ark. Laura Matney, Wabash Valley Power Association, will be demonstrating the Web-based home energy calculator. Also speaking that evening will be Scott DeHoff from DeHoff Insulation. He will be speaking on how insulating your home can save on your energy bill.

Knowledge of how important it is to properly insulate a home will not only save the homeowner money, it will also make the home comfortable. Having the right heating and cooling system will mimic the benefits of proper insulation.

The goal of this workshop is to provide information to members that will help them make educated decisions relevant to insulation and heating and cooling systems as they prepare to build a new home or remodel an existing home. Please join us on Oct. 19 at 6 p.m. at the REMC. Space is limited. RSVP by Oct. 13 to (260) 726-7121 or (800) 835-7362.

## Do your part to help the environment, starting at home

Did you know that the energy you use in your home can be responsible for twice the greenhouse gas emissions as your car? That's because most electricity is generated by burning fossil fuels, which releases greenhouse gases into our air. If you're like most people, you want to make a difference...but don't know where to start.

Here's a bright idea. Changing the world takes less time and energy than you might think. In fact, it's as simple as changing a light.

Jay County REMC, along with other utilities, energy efficiency organizations, retailers, manufacturers, and consumers across the country, has joined the ENERGY STAR Change a Light, Change the World campaign – a national challenge to help Americans change the world one light, one step at a time.

You typically spend more to light your home than you do to operate your refrigerator all year long. If you're still using traditional incandescent bulbs and inefficient fixtures, you're wasting a lot of energy and money – and creating a lot of unnecessary pollution.

Switching to energy-efficient lighting can save you time, energy and money – and help the environment. These products last up to 10 times longer, which can mean more than seven years between bulb changes. And since they also use at least two-thirds less energy, you'll save money on your utility bills.

Try simply changing out the five lights you use most to ENERGY STAR qualified ones. You'll be doing your part to reduce the emissions that cause global warming, and if all of our homes did it, we'd prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from more than 8 million cars.

DuraBright compact fluorescent light bulbs can be purchased at the Jay County REMC.

14 Watt (60 watt equivalent).....	\$ 2.28
20 Watt (75 watt equivalent).....	\$ 3.07
23 Watt (100 watt equivalent).....	\$ 3.39
3 Way 14/19/32 Watt (40/75/150 equivalent).....	\$11.52

The ENERGY STAR Change a Light, Change the World campaign is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy. For information, go to [www.energystar.gov/changealight](http://www.energystar.gov/changealight).

## Celebrate Change a Light Day on Oct. 4.



MAKE YOUR NEXT LIGHT AN ENERGY STAR®



## Home Energy Seminar

To be held at

**Jay County  
REMC  
Oct. 19**



- Building a new home?
- Upgrading your heating and cooling system?

**This FREE seminar is for you! Food, door prizes and more!**

*For more information call (260) 726-7121 or (800) 835-7362  
(class size is limited)*



Visit our Web site at  
[www.jayremc.com](http://www.jayremc.com)

## SIDE LINES

Courtesy of Portland Chamber

**Oct. 7: Main Street USA Dunkirk.** Arts and crafts, homemade food. Inside West Jay Middle School. For information call (765) 768-6193 or (765) 768-7766.

**Oct. 20-21: Tri-State Swap/Sell Meet.** Tri-State Club Grounds. Antique engines, tractors. For information call (765) 369-2656

**Oct. 7: Invasion of the Scarecrow.** Historic Farmland. Chili cookoff. For more information call (765) 468-7026.

**Oct. 10-14: 60th Annual Mardi Gras Festival.** Winchester Downtown Square. Family activities, games, midway rides, entertainment, food booths, vendor booths. Parade on Saturday. For more information call (765) 584-4916.

**Oct. 14: Farmland Fire Prevention Day/Children's Day.** Farmland Fire Department. Games, drawings, dance in the evening. For information call (765) 468-7657.

**Oct. 20-21: Pollution Solution** (a place to dispose of household products in an environmentally friendly manner). Randolph County Slid Waste Management District, 2115 E SR 32. For information call (877) 584-9816.

**Month of October: National Cooperative Month.** Jay County REMC. Stop by the office during working hours to sign up for thank you prizes and check out the safety display.

## Have a safe Halloween

Much of Halloween safety begins with everyday common sense. Before your children leave to trick 'r treat discuss the following points of safety provided by Jay County REMC:



- Only go into familiar neighborhoods.
- Plan to follow a route and designate a time to return.
- Stop only at houses that are well lit and display that they are participating in the trick 'r treating.
- Do not enter homes or apartments unless an accompanying adult approves.
- Accompany all young children on their adventure.
- Walk, don't run, from house to house.
- Use sidewalks and not streets for walking. If there are no sidewalks, always walk facing traffic (on the left side).
- Cross street only at intersections, looking both ways before crossing.
- Slow down when approaching driveways to look for exiting cars.
- Have children carry a flashlight and use reflector tape on their costumes.
- Give children supper before going trick 'r treating. Emphasize that no treat should be eaten before they get home!

## October is Fire Prevention Month

October is Fire Prevention Month and Jay County REMC offers these fire safety tips to help keep you and your loved ones safe:

### Make Your Home Safe

- Smoke alarms save lives. Install a smoke alarm outside each sleeping area and on each additional level of your home.
- If people sleep with doors closed, install additional smoke alarms inside sleeping areas.
- Use the test button to check each smoke alarm once a month. When necessary, replace batteries immediately. Replace all batteries at least once a year.
- Vacuum away cobwebs and dust from your smoke alarms monthly.
- Smoke alarms become less sensitive over time. Replace your smoke alarms every ten years.
- Consider having one or more working fire extinguishers in your home. Get training from the fire department on how to use them.
- Consider installing an automatic fire sprinkler system in your home.

### Plan Your Escape Routes

- Determine at least two ways to escape from every room of your home.
- Consider escape ladders for sleeping areas on the second or third floor. Learn how to use them and store them near the window.
- Select a location outside your home where everyone would meet after escaping.
- Practice your escape plan at least twice a year.

### Escape Safely

- Once you are out, stay out! Call the fire department from a neighbor's home.
- If you see smoke or fire in your first escape route, use your second way out. If you must exit through smoke, crawl low under the smoke to your exit.
- If you are escaping through a closed door, feel the door before opening it. If it is warm, use your second way out.
- If smoke, heat, or flames block your exit routes, stay in the room with the door closed. Signal for help using a bright-colored cloth at the window. If there is a telephone in the room, call the fire department and tell them where you are.

## National Cooperative Month Special



**First Month FREE!**  
**\$49 Installation**  
**October 1st through 31st**



Serving Portland, Redkey, and Pennville areas.

**1-877-288-7873**

**\$50 monthly drawing for bills dated Oct. 20 and paid by Oct. 31.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ACCOUNT NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: To be eligible for the drawing, your coupon and payment must be in the office by 4:30 p.m. on the last working day of the month.